

In the Specification

The paragraph starting at page 26, line 11 and ending at page 27, line 4 has been amended as follows.

FIGS. 10A and 10B illustrate the specific process of Step S4 (process for compensating printing data). These figures show the relationship between a part of a plurality of nozzles (e.g., 512 nozzles) of the printing head 21 and the printing data to be printed by the nozzle. The printing data is a binary value driving signal for ejecting ink or not and, more specifically, correspond to on or off signal for ejecting ink out of a nozzle or not. In the matrix at the right-hand side in each of FIGS. 10A and 10B, printing resolutions and ink dot formation positions on a printing medium are shown. In this embodiment, assuming that an N-th nozzle (N) is detected as an abnormal nozzle (ejection-defective malfunctioning nozzle), Da to De of FIG. 10A are printing data to be printed by the abnormal nozzle (N) and correspond ~~on-signal~~ to on-signals (ejection ~~signal~~ signals) for ejecting ink. Therefore, when the printing data Da to De are printed as they are without compensating the printing data Da to De to be printed by the abnormal nozzle (N), an image defect (streaking), such as a white streaking, appears on the site of the printed image corresponding to the nozzle (N).

The paragraph starting at page 32, line 12 and ending at line 19 has been amended as follows.

During the printing operation, the driving frequency for ejecting ink drops out of the printing head 21, that is, the number of ejections per unit time, is set twice as high as the normal frequency. The timing of ink ejection performed based on the original printing data of (N-1) and (N+1) is shifted from that performed based on the printing data Da' to De' to avoid overlapping of them. Accordingly, the printing data can be simply added in the same manner as in Embodiment 1.